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"Mr Mehl Discovers An 1804 Half Dollar"

Quotes letter of Mehl dated 9/29/33

"It was my good fortune to ~~have~~ experience the thrill of discovering a real honest-to-goodness 1804 half dollar. *** So far as I know This coin is unique."

The 1804 U.S. Half Dollar Altered Date

caps.

Based upon U.S. Mint coiners records the U.S. 1804 Half Dollar is listed on p. 182 in M. W. Dickeson's Manual in 1859. Two varieties are included based upon ~~the~~ the two known 1805 over 1804 varieties. ~~the only~~ whether Dickeson had seen ~~any alleged~~ piece is doubtful. George W. Rice, a numismatist, said such a piece was authenticated by L. M. Marshall of Otsego, N. Y. and was sold by Rice's father in 1861 (1895 Numismatist p. 263). Edward Cogan saw it in the E. Jewett collection ~~in 1863~~ about 1863 and sold it as lot 564 of the ~~Jewett~~ Jewett sale in Jan 1876 basing genuineness upon the opinions of others. In 1867 (A. J. N. Vol 2, No. 2, p. 25) it was stated that opinions ^{of genuineness} were divided. It was also included as a coin not issued ^{on page 4} in Cogan's table of U.S. coins not issued (N. Y. 1871 ~~1871~~). The coin was sold by Woodward ^{as lot 569} ~~as genuine~~ of the Ferguson Haines sale in ^{Oct} 1880 with "no reason to doubt ~~it~~"

~~its genuineness~~ It was illustrated and sold by Woodward in ^{May} 1883 as lot 169 of the Winslow Lewis sale after noting it was scoured with pumice to check alteration. It was commented upon as ~~bogus~~ ^{in text} accompanying lot 275 of the March 1881 Haseltine sale and in ~~text~~ accompanying lot 130 in the Massamora sale of Jan 1883. Mehl was handling the Newcomer collection in 1933 and ~~at that time it was or was not~~ this coin might have been in that collection ^{because then} Mehl "discovered" the 1804 Half Dollar which he declared "real" and "unique" (~~Numismatist~~ ^{his} letter dated Sept. 29, 1933)

It was ^{then} sold by Woodward in Oct 1881 as lot 520 of the Burton sale.

~~commentary~~
~~these are not having it~~
for sale

(Nov. 1933 Numismatist p. 706). He sold the coin to E. H. R. Green ^{from} whose estate it was ~~perhaps~~ acquired in 1940 as part of ~~the Green~~ half dollar collection by Eue P. Newman who ~~and B. G. Johnson in 1940~~. Eue P. Newman still owns it. ~~It is~~ It is nicely toned ~~after~~ a century after being pumiced. It is an alteration from 1806 ~~to the~~ overton 118a (Beistle 4a-Ha). No other altered date 1804 half dollar is known as yet. See Chapter XVIII of the Fantastic 1804 Dollar for picture and data.